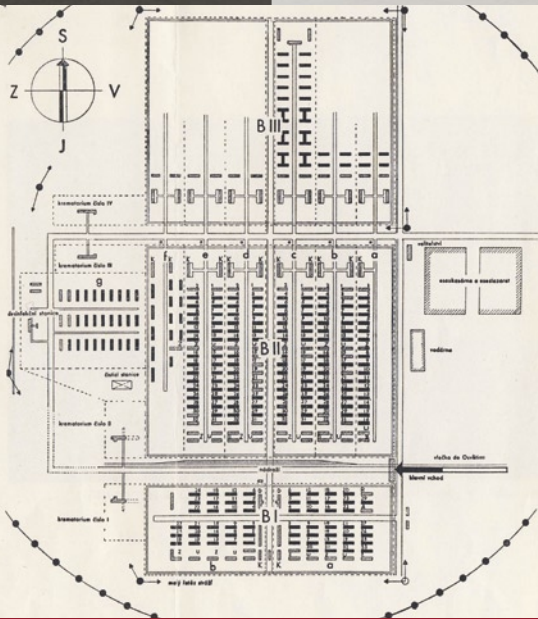


Auschwitz extermination camp, ground map



“As many others in Auschwitz, I also used to dream that mankind would be able to learn a lesson from what had happened in Auschwitz and what all have till now considered to be unimaginable and impossible. Will mankind make it?”

Hermann Langbein,
prisoner in concentration camps

“Holocaust is a unique experience that eventually force individual to remain silenced. Even the best of answers seems to be trivial, in the end. For me it is not only part of history, holocaust remains to be part of my life and lives of many others. And finally, it is the metaphor for the last century.”

Aharon Appelfeld,
writer and poet



About 20,000 Jews were protected against deportation by having ‘certificates of exemption’ that were granted by the Office of the President to persons deemed vital to the Slovak economy.

Deportations of Jews from the Slovak state were not renewed after October 1942.

After the outbreak of Slovak Nation Uprising (on August 29, 1944) the deportation were carried out by the German occupation troops, with no exception.

CONSEQUENCES OF HOLOCAUST IN SLOVAKIA

The majority of Jews deported to extermination camps did not survive and died in gas chambers. Hundreds of Jews were murdered on the territory of Slovakia.

Of the 89,000 Jews living in Slovakia: 7,500 were deported to the territory ceded to Hungary, 69,000 to camps in occupied Poland in 57 train transports.

2,200 Jewish businesses, 100,000 hectares of Jewish land and thousands of houses and flats were ‘aryanised’. Ten thousand Jewish businesses were liquidated.

The total number of Jewish Holocaust victims in Slovakia is approximately 70,000 people.

Many Jews survived the Holocaust in Slovakia thanks to the help of local citizens who risked their own lives and did not succumb to the anti-Jewish propaganda. Till January 2014 the State of Israel awarded the status ‘Righteous among the Nations’ to 539 persons from Slovakia.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

Recommended websites:
www.upn.gov.sk; www.enrs.eu



HOLOCAUST

PERSECUTION OF JEWS IN SLOVAKIA
BETWEEN 1938 AND 1945

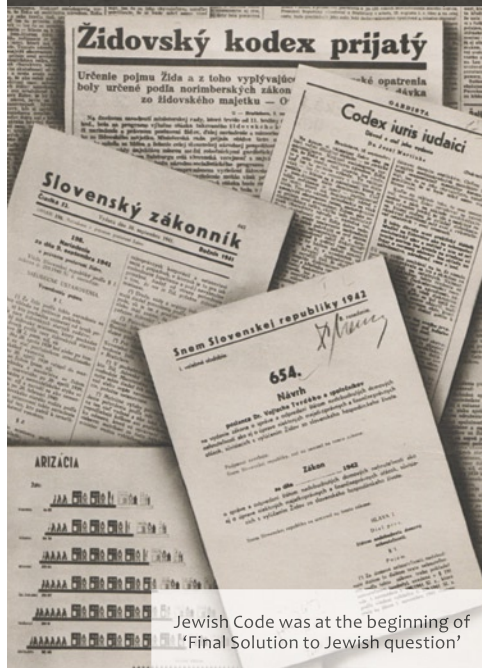
Holocaust means systematic persecution carried out under the authority of a state government and the mass killings of ethnic, religious or political groups during the World War II carried out by Nazi Germany and its allies. In Hebrew the term Shoah used to describe the holocaust, translated as extermination, destruction.

Examples of public antisemitism:
'Jew is our enemy'



1940

September 9, 1941

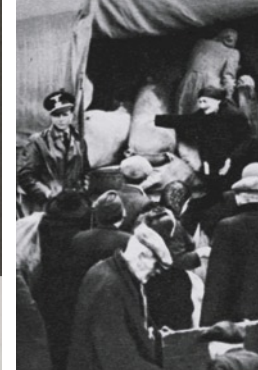


Jewish Code was at the beginning of
'Final Solution to Jewish question'



Autumn 1944

Slovak Jews were marked, later
seized and deported to nazi-
concentration camps



October 1940



Adolf Hitler meets Jozef Tiso
in Berlin

March – October 1942



REASONS LEADING TO HOLOCAUST IN SLOVAKIA

Political changes brought about by the Munich Agreement made it possible to develop an authoritative regime, that followed the example set by Nazi German, that made both political and military pressures in all Central European countries. **Hlinka Slovak People's Party (HSPP) came to power after the autonomy of Slovakia was declared on October 6, 1938. Its leading position in the country allowed for liquidation of the opposition and other political parties.**

To turn the public opinion against the Jewish population became the aim of the official state propaganda and the solution of the Jewish question was one of the main tasks after the Slovak State was established on March 14, 1939.

HOLOCAUST IN SLOVAKIA

As early as in November 1938, approximately 7,500 Jews were forcibly displaced to the territory ceded to Hungary after First Vienna Award. Jewish inhabitants hoped that they would be spared if they converted to Christianity. More fortunate managed to leave or escape their country.

After the Slovak State was established, the government adopted anti-Jewish regulations:

- **Stipulating the term 'Jew' in law;**
- Restricting numbers of Jews in certain professions;
- **Launching the process of so called aryanisation**, i.e. the transfer of Jewish property to new non-Jewish ('Aryan') owners, or its liquidation;
- Creating conditions for establishing Jewish work centres and labour camps;
- **Gradually depriving Jews of their basic human rights and freedoms;**
- Creating mixed classrooms with Jewish children by purpose: later, in successive steps, Jews were prohibited to attend all kinds of schools;
- Forbidding Jews to drive cars, visit public areas, parks, theatres and cinemas, and strictly defining their time for shopping;
- Prohibiting Jews to have residence in places called after the representatives of the Nazi regime, HSPP and the state (e.g. on Hitler or Hlinka streets) and victimizing them continuously with house-searches.

On September 9, 1941 the so-called Jewish Codex was issued, the **Governmental Decree No. 198/1941 on legal position of Jews**; 270 articles stipulated a special legal regime which found inspiration in Nuremberg Laws, but the propaganda was proud on these articles being even stricter. **In comparison of the first phase of regulations, the Jewish origin was not determined on religious, but racial grounds.** There was a new duty to wear a visible mark on one's clothes on form of yellow six-pointed Star of David.

THE 'FINAL SOLUTION' OF THE JEWISH QUESTION

Jews devoid of almost all property were excluded from the economic life in the Slovak State. **The government and state authorities found the so-called Final Solution: Deportation of Jews from the territory of Slovakia to concentration camps in occupied Poland from March 25, till October 20, 1942.** People were transported in inhumane conditions in cattle wagons from transit camps in Poprad, Bratislava, Sereď, Nováky and Žilina.

The Slovak State paid Nazi Germany a 'resettlement fee' of 500 Reichmarks for each deported Jew.